(c) Predominant share of allocation in the import of urea is that of two major public sector undertakings viz. MMTC Limited and State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC). The allocations are made looking to their experience and past performance.

Death of tribal children in the Melghat Forest area

*260. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that more than 4000 tribal children have died in the Melghat Forest area of the Amravati District of Maharashtra during the last three years and almost everyone is blaming the callous attitude of his Ministry for this tragedy;

(b) if so, what is the response of Govenrment thereto; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken for prevention of such tragedy in the protected forests?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from State Government of Maharashtra and will be placed on the Table of the House.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Krishi Vigyan Kendra

1861. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer the answer to Unstarred Question 4427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th May, 1997 and state:

(a) what are the locations of the 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras' alongwith their performance and achievements till date; and

(b) what are the details of the activities of 42 selected centres where ICAR has launched innovative projects on technology assessment and refinement through institution village linkage programmes (I.V.L.P.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in 253 districts of the country. The details of locations of the KVKs are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 181, Annexure No. 50]. The activities of the KVKs include vocational training to farmers including farm women and youths, on-farm testing, front-line demonstration and in-service training to extension functionaries. During 8th plan period, the KVKs have organized 67,771 training programmes in various fields of agriculture and allied areas, viz, crop production, horticulture, livestock production, home science, agril engineering and other allied enterprises; and benefited 14.39 lakhs farmers, rural youths and farm-women. Front-line demonstrations with the focus on Oilseeds and Pulses were organized in order to demonstrate the production potentials of these crops. During the last five years about 20,000 demonstrations covering an area of 7378 hectares were organized on important pulse crops and about 30,000 demonstrations in 12690 hectares on important oilseeds crops. A total of 2,945 training programmes were conducted for 67,123 extension functinaries.

To speed up the process of transfer of technology various extenstion activities such as field days (10,893), Farmers Fairs (945), Agricultural Exhibitions (539) and

Video & Film Shows (4230) have also been organized during the same period.

(b) The concept of the "Pilot Project on Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP)" is based on participatory mode ensuring greater scientist-farmer linkage in a "bottom up" approach. This project ensure access to agricultural technologies generated by the Institute or for the matter by the entire Agricultural Research System in the country to the farming community adopted in a village or cluster of villages. The project is being implemented from 1995-96 through State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes at 42 locations in the country. The activities of the project include technological intervention with emphasis on stability and sustainability for small farm production system, sustaining higher productivity in well endowed production system and 'off' and 'on' farm value addition in commercial production system. On-farm research and technology verification/validation work are being done in 13 production system spread over 5 agri-ecological regions viz. hill & Mountain, Irrigated, Rainfed, Coastal and Arid regions.

Agricultural Development Projects in Punjab

1862. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural development projects in the state of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh; district-wise;

(b) the allocation of fund granted by Govenrment for each of the project; year-wise during the period from 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1997-98;

(c) the names of such districts in Punjab where these projects are not being implemented in time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (e) A list to Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the agricultural development under implementation and details of funds released to the States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh during the period from 1994-95 to 1996-97 are given at Statement-I (a) and I (b) and Statement II respectively (*See* below). Under the various schemes, funds are released to States who in turn, pass them on to the Implementing Agencies. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate a list of districts covered under the Schemes;

Funds for the year 1997-98 would be released to States under various Central/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes based on proposals received from the State Governments, total allocation in the budget of the Department and the amount remaining unutilised out of earlier releases made.

Statement-I (a)

List of Central / Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented for Development of Agriculture in Punjab during 1996-97.

S.No.	Name of Schemes
1.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme—Wheat.
2.	Sustainable Development of Sugarcane based Cropping System.
3.	Intensive Cotton Development Programme.
4.	National Pulses Development Project.
5.	Oilseeds Production Programme.
6.	Accelerated Maize Development Project.
7.	Natioanal Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas.